AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-8. (CANCELED)

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image processing method in which image data for an identification photo of a person is obtained from image data of the person, said image processing method comprising the steps of:

abstracting a skin pigmentation area from an image of the person;

calculating skin pigmentation correction values according to colors of the abstracted skin pigmentation area and a predetermined skin pigmentation correction target value;

wherein the skin pigmentation correction values are calculated by applying non-linear correction functions based on a luminance Y and chromacities Cb and Cr of the abstracted skin pigmentation area;

correcting the colors of the skin pigmentation area according to the calculated skin pigmentation correction values;

detecting a background area in said image data;

abstracting a person area in said image data based on the background area;

comparing a size of the person area in said image data with a predetermined size; and

changing the size of the image based on the size of the person area so that the size of the person area is the predetermined size,

wherein the step of detecting the background area comprises:

comparing a plurality of areas of the image data with a reference background area; and

determining each of the plurality of areas to be a part of the background area based on the comparison, and

wherein the reference background area includes at least one corner area of the image data.

10-18. (CANCELED)

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The image processing method as defined in claim 9, wherein said step of abstracting the person area the image data comprises determining the person area as being an area of the image data other than the background area.

20-24. (CANCELED)

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image processing method, comprising:

determining a background area of an image;

determining a person area of the image as an area of the image other than the background area of the image; and

sizing the image based on a size of the person area of the image such that the size of the person area is a predetermined person area size,

wherein the step of determining the background area of the image comprises:

separating the image into a plurality of areas; and

wherein the step of separating the image into the plurality of areas comprises:

comparing properties of adjoining pixels of the image; and

determining that two adjoining pixels belong in the same area if the compared properties of the two adjoining pixels are less than predetermined thresholds for each property compared, and

determining whether or not the each area of the plurality of areas belongs in the background area based on any one or more of a comparison of the each area with a reference background area, a size of the each area, or an average coordinate of the pixels of the each area, and

wherein the reference background area includes at least one corner of the image and wherein the step of determining whether or not the each area of the plurality of areas belongs in the background area based on the comparison of the each area with the reference background area includes determining that the each area belongs in the background area if

a difference between an average luminance value of the pixels of the each area and an average luminance value of the reference background area is within a predetermined luminance difference threshold and a difference between an average chromaticity value of the pixels of the each area and an average chromaticity value of the reference background area is within a predetermined chromaticity difference threshold, or

a difference between an average red (R) value of the pixels of the each area and an average R value of the reference background area is within a predetermined R difference threshold, a difference between an average green (G) value of the pixels of the each area and an average G value of the reference background area is within a predetermined G difference threshold and a difference between an average blue (B) value of the pixels of the each area and an average B value of the reference background area is within a predetermined B difference threshold.

26. (CANCELED)

27. (CANCELED)

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The image processing method as defined in claim 25~~27~~, wherein the properties of the adjoining pixels compared include:

luminance and chromaticity values; or

red (R), green (G) and blue (B) values.

29. (CANCELED)

30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The image processing method as defined in claim 25, wherein the step of determining whether or not the each area of the plurality of areas belongs in the background area based on the size of the each area includes determining that the each area belongs in the background area if the size of the each area is greater than a predetermined

maximum area or less than a predetermined minimum area.

31. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The image processing method as defined in claim 25, wherein the step of determining whether or not the each area of the plurality of areas belongs in the background area based on the average coordinate of the pixels of the each area includes determining that the each area belongs in the background area if the average coordinate of the pixels of the each area is outside of a predetermined oval or circle with the center of the oval or the circle at the center of the image.

32. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The image processing method as defined in of claim 25, further comprising abstracting a facial area based on the person area.

33. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The image processing method as defined in claim 32, wherein the step of abstracting the facial area based on the person area comprises determining that an area of the person area is the facial area when a color of the of the area is determined to be a skin pigmentation color.

34. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The image processing method as defined in claim 33, further comprising correcting the facial area to a target skin pigmentation color.

35-47. (CANCELED)

48. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The image processing method as defined in claim 9, further comprising:

allowing a user to select the predetermined size from a plurality of predetermined person area sizes prior to changing the size of the image,

wherein in the step of changing the size of the image comprises changing the size of the image based on the selected predetermined size.

49. (CANCELED)

50. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The image processing method as defined in claim 25, further comprising:

allowing a user to select the predetermined person area size from a plurality of predetermined person area sizes prior to sizing the image,

wherein in the step of sizing the image comprises sizing the image based on the selected predetermined person area size.

51-52. (CANCELED)

53. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The image processing method as defined in claim 9, wherein the step of changing the size of the image based on the size of the person area so that the size of the person area is the predetermined size is performed after the person has been photographed to generate the image data of the person.

54. (CANCELED)

55. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The image processing method as defined in claim 25, wherein the step of sizing the image based on the size of the person area such that the size of the person area is the predetermined size is performed after the image is generated through photography.

56-59. (CANCELED)